

REMARKS

Claims 1-39, as amended, remain herein. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are amended herein.

Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in applicants' specification in Figs. 4, 11, 13, 16, 18 and 26.

1. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Mundt U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0145828. However, Mundt fails to disclose a groove parallel to the air flow incoming end of the slider, as recited in applicants' claims 1, 14 and 27. To the contrary, Mundt discloses a slider having a channel that is angled to direct debris to the edges of the slider. Since Mundt fails to disclose every element of applicants' claims 1, 14 and 27, Mundt is an inadequate basis for rejecting claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Boutaghou U.S. Patent 2003/0058578. However, Boutaghou fails to disclose a groove parallel to the air flow incoming end of the slider, as recited in applicants' claims 1, 14 and 27. To the contrary, Boutaghou discloses a slider having a channel that is angled with respect to the air flow incoming end of the slider. Since Boutaghou fails to disclose every element of applicants' claims 1, 14 and 27, Boutaghou is an inadequate basis for rejecting claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

3. Claims 5, 9, 10, 18, 22, 23, 31, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mundt or Boutaghou and Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). As discussed above,

neither Mundt nor Boutaghou discloses a groove parallel to the air flow incoming end of the slider, as recited in applicants' claims 1, 14 and 27, from which claims 5, 9, 10, 18, 22, 23, 31, 35 and 36 depend. AAPA fails to disclose what Mundt and Boutaghou lack. AAPA fails to disclose any groove in the air inflow surface, as recited in claims 1, 14 and 27.

Nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify or combine Mundt or Boutaghou and AAPA to provide every limitation of applicants' claims. None of Mundt, Boutaghou or AAPA contains any disclosure that would have motivated one of ordinary skill to provide a groove parallel to the air flow incoming end.

Further, modifying the slider of Mundt to include a groove parallel to the air flow incoming end would render the slider of Mundt inadequate for its intended purpose. Mundt discloses a channel 1280 angled from the center of the slider in an air-inflow direction for diverting incoming debris to the edges of the slider. Modifying the channel to be parallel to the air flow incoming end would prevent the channel from diverting debris to the outside of the slider.

For the foregoing reasons, Mundt, Boutaghou, and AAPA are inadequate grounds for rejecting applicants' claims 5, 9, 10, 18, 22, 23, 31, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

4. Claims 6, 12, 13, 19, 25, 26, 32, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mundt or Boutaghou and AAPA. For the reasons discussed above, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to modify or combine Mundt, Boutaghou, and AAPA to provide every limitation of applicants' claims 1, 14 and 27, from which claims 6, 12, 13, 19, 25, 26, 32, 38 and 39 depend. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Accordingly, all claims 1-39 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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